

The McGill Daily

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Monday, January 22, 1990

Student unions form common front

by Linda Gyulai

Québec's two major student unions announced last week they will work together to fight the government's university tuition fee increase.

"There are still some minor details to work out, but so far we're going in the same direction," said Jeff Begley, VP External of l'Association des étudiantes et étudiants du Québec (ANEEQ).

A press conference last week confirmed that ANEEQ and la Fédération des étudiantes et étudiants du Québec (FEEQ)—of which McGill is a founding member—will consult on a strategy to fight the fee hike, including a general

strike planned for February 21.

Action on the way

The strategy includes a demonstration set for February 14 in Montréal, according to Jean-Pierre Paquette of ANEEQ.

"It will be held in opposition to the tuition fee increase and will denounce private companies that don't finance universities but asked for the tuition fee increase," he said.

Paquette said private companies profit from students, taking advantage of an educated work force without financing their university education.

A province-wide meeting of students from the two student unions will be held on February 10 to

discuss the proposed strike. The strike is planned to coincide with the beginning of a parliamentary committee on loans and bursaries.

"Ryan will use the loans and bursaries committee as an opportunity to confirm the tuition fee increase," said Paquette. "The reform of the loans and bursaries system, they say, works with it."

Last Thursday, Laval University students voted to hold a referendum in mid-February on tuition fees and whether to strike.

"I wish we could work so fast," said McGill Students' Society VP External John Fox. "The problem at McGill is timing. Our polling period is around February 7 and 8 and election regulations don't al-

low an earlier period."

Students' Society's External Affairs committee has recommended a General Assembly on tuition fees for February 7. It would coincide with a 'teach-in' featuring student groups, McGill administration and possibly government officials in a forum on underfunding

Alternatives proposed

Fox said, "the public must ask, 'Has Québec examined all the possibilities in terms of funding?'"

"The government said 'no' rather quickly. I don't think they've examined all the possibilities."

According to Begley, "we abso-

lutely want to meet with the education minister (Claude Ryan) to propose alternatives to a tuition fee increase, the week of February 14."

"We have to put together something concrete—we have to look at systems in Australia, Sweden, France and West Germany where education is free," he said.

One proposal involves a one per cent tax on private companies to fund universities. "This would bring in an additional \$7 million in one year," said Begley.

The 'training tax' could be deducted the way companies pay a percentage to l'assurance-maladie, he said.

Students mourn death of education

by J. Torres

Students staged a mock funeral procession last week to mourn the death of accessible education.

About 20 students, clad in black and towing a coffin, led the show of protest against tuition fee hikes. The procession, organized by the Coalition Against the Privatization of Education (CAPE), wound its way through lower campus last Thursday afternoon.

In the Administration Building, students hoisted the coffin up five floors to McGill Principal David Johnston's office. The office immediately emptied, security was called and the protestors were asked to leave, with threat of intervention by the MUC.

Student reaction to the procession was varied. While several students who witnessed the mock funeral had no idea what it was about, most realized what issue was involved.

"I'm pretty worried about the tuition hike. I don't have a lot of money, it's going to put me in a bad spot if the fees go up," said one on-looker.

Protestors chanted, "Education, farewell—laid to rest and gone to hell," along their route, punctuated with a sarcastic eulogy spoken by one CAPE member in clerical costume.

"Let us not mourn the ideal of free and democratic schooling as a right for all, but welcome our new stratified and Americanized social climate, to better fill the pockets of all the business kings united under heaven," said the speech, which was read at designated stopping points, including the Redpath and Union Building cafeterias.

The march began in the basement of the Student Union Building and made its way to the Red-

path Library, through lower campus to the Administration Building, and proceeded through the Arts Building and the Leacock Building before returning to Union Building lobby.

"We're marching, symbolically, against the death of accessible education to be brought about by the tuition fee hike proposed by the Bourassa government," said CAPE member Carl Wilson.

CAPE is a new campus group comprised of individual students and student organizations including the Post-Graduate Students' Society, the McGill Association of International Students, the Daily and CKUT.

The group is dedicated to heightening McGill's involvement in the Québec student movement's campaign against fee hikes and the general privatization of education.

One Continuing Education student said the march was done in poor taste. Another student said she thought tuition fees should be increased to match inflation and the fees at other Canadian universities.

"But, I can understand, a lot of people won't be able to afford it. And they (CAPE) certainly have the right to oppose the tuition increase," she said.

According to Wilson, "The idea is to raise awareness of the fee increase and the resistance that's happening in the Québec student community."

McGill student Andrew Rosen, who saw the marchers in the Union Building Cafeteria, said, "It seems that apathy still reigns at McGill but hopefully this type of demonstration will get people thinking and decide to take action."

The Coalition Against the Privatization of Education meets today at 16h and Wednesday at 17h in Union B-03.



CAPE mourns passing of Education, a sad time for all.

PANAMANIAN BASH U.S.

by Dave McCullough

A determined crowd fought the cold and the rain to voice their disgust of the U.S. invasion of Panama in front of the U.S. consulate. Protestors replied to a call from the Congreso Latinoamericano Sindicalista for an international day of solidarity with Panama.

"The U.S. invaded our brother country," an unnamed protester said. "The U.S. doesn't have any reason to invade Panama."

"Hey! You! CIA! How many people did you kill today!" chanted the group of forty, as the Montreal police observed from a distance.

"In the name of democracy and

liberty," said a spokesman for the group. "We want to have the right to solve our own problems without the intervention of a foreign power. The Latin American people cannot be invaded or assassinated by the U.S."

Protestors were disappointed about Canada's support of the invasion by 24 000 U.S. troops. "We think the Canadian Government is taking a position to please as many people as possible," another protester said.

Canada and Britain were alone in supporting the U.S. action at the U.N. The Organization of American States, of which the U.S. and

Canada are members, also deplored the invasion.

"We hope that Canadians enjoy the manifestations and voice their opinions. We call the Canadian people because we know the Canadian people respect other countries democratic rights," said one protester.

The U.S. consulate could not be reached for comment.

Voice opinions on Canada's support of the U.S. invasion of Panama. Write: The Honorable Joe Clark, c/o The Ministry for External Affairs, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6.

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Nominations are hereby called for the following positions:

STUDENTS' SOCIETY EXECUTIVE:

President
Vice-President, Internal Affairs
Vice-President, External Affairs
Vice-President, University Affairs
Vice-President, Finance

SENATE:

Arts (Includes Social Work)
Dentistry
Education
Engineering (Includes Architecture)
Law

BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

One Undergraduate Representative

2 representatives
1 representative
1 representative
1 representative
1 representative

Management
Medicine (Includes Nursing and P & OT)
Music
Religious Studies
Science

1 representative
1 representative
1 representative
1 representative
2 representatives

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1990 AT 16H00

EXECUTIVE JOB DESCRIPTIONS

President: As the Society's Chief Officer, The President is responsible for upholding the Constitution, coordinating the executive committee activities, setting the agenda for Council meetings and acting as liaison between the University and the Society.

Vice-President Internal Affairs chairs the Nominating and Communications Committees and oversees the programming and internal communications.

VP External Affairs coordinates activities of External Affairs Committee and is Society's representative to various levels of government and external agencies ensuring that students' concerns and policies are properly communicated.

VP University Affairs is the main link between the Society and all levels of government at McGill. Attends

Senate and Board of Governors meetings and oversees the University Affairs Committee as well as the Senate and Board of Governors Caucus.

VP Finance establishes with the financial officers of recognized clubs, their operating budgets, oversees these accounts and ensures that all financial rules and regulations are adhered to, as well as ensuring the long-term stability of the Society.

May 1, 1990 to April 30, 1991. All the above officers must reside in Montreal during the term of office. Positions are salaried during the summer months from May 1st to August 31st based on a 40 hour work week at a rate of minimum wage plus cost of living as determined by the Joint Management Committee.

Honoraria for Sept-April: President \$5,434; Vice-Presidents: \$4,347 (1989/90)

Poll Clerks needed: \$5 per hour.

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS AND NOMINATING PROCEDURES:

Executive

President - may be a member of the McGill Students' Society in good standing with the University except students registered in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research who are non-resident students or full members of the teaching staff.

Nominations must be signed by at least 100 members of the McGill Students' Society along with their year and faculty.

Vice-Presidents, Internal, External, Finance & University Affairs - same qualifications as for President except that nominations must be signed by at least 75 members of the McGill Students' Society along with their year and faculty.

Board Of Governors

Candidates must be members of the McGill Students' Society and must be in good standing. Nominations must be signed by at least 75 members of the McGill Students' Society along with their year and faculty.

• Candidates may run for one position in each of the three categories provided separate nomination papers have been handed in for each position. A typed pen sketch of 100 words or less and a photo of the nominee must be handed in with the nomination.

Senate

Candidates must be members of the McGill Students' Society and:

i) be students in good standing who are registered for a degree or diploma and have satisfied conditions for promotion in their previous year of studies.

or
ii) be students in good standing who have satisfied conditions for promotion in the previous year of studies and who are registered in a degree or diploma program.

or
iii) be students in good standing who are registered in a limited program for a degree or diploma, and who are repeating a year for reasons other than academic failure.

Nominations must be signed by at least 50 members of the Students' Society who are in the same faculty as the prospective candidate together with their year and faculty, or by 25% of the student enrollment in the faculty together with their year and faculty, whichever is the lesser of the two.

Official Nomination forms are available from the Students' Society General Office, Room 105, University Centre - Eric Steinman, Chief Returning Officer.

All candidates and potential candidates are advised to meet with the Chief Returning Officer for the purpose of familiarization with the election regulations. Wed. Feb. 14 16h00, 1990, Union 302

All nominations must be submitted to the Students' Society General Office in the University Centre by 16h00 Wednesday, February 14, 1990 c/o Leslie Copeland, Operations Secretary.

Making a case for non-violent action

by Carl P. Wilson III

"When I see a headline that reads, 'East Germans demanding an end to secret police,' all I can think is, when will we demand an end to the secret police in the United States?" 74-year old American activist David Dellinger told a capacity crowd Thursday night at McGill. Dellinger is perhaps the most important living revolutionary in North America.

Dellinger is a veteran of a long series of civil resistance struggles reaching back to the Great Depression and extending through the 1960s' Civil Rights movement and the anti-Vietnam War campaign to today's protests about Latin America and apartheid.

He acted as an advisor to Martin Luther King, befriended Black Panthers, stood trial as one of the famous Chicago Eight, and accompanied Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir and Stokely Carmichael on Bertrand Russell's War Crimes Tribunal against Western leaders in the 1960's.

Dellinger is now active in civil resistance against the Bush government's invasion of Panama and on Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition, amongst others.

In the interim, he has seen friends shot and killed by CIA and FBI operatives, others drop from weariness and depression and more sell out as they reached middle age. Like Gandhi, he's maintained his principles of non-violent resistance

as a way of life.

Most of Dellinger's address concerned Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday was marked by ceremonies across the United States last Monday. Dellinger denounced those ceremonies for immortalizing the man while ignoring the struggle.

He emphasized the growth King experienced from his youth as a reluctantly-anointed leader to his final decision that the power of the people would do more than any hundred leaders could ever imagine.

At that point, Dellinger claimed, "He had become so dangerous, they had to kill him."

He quoted radical pronouncements King had made in his final days, such as, "Power must be relocated. The evils of capitalism are as real as the evils of militarism or of racism."

"When did you ever hear that in a Martin Luther King Day celebration?" Dellinger asked.

Much of the debate that followed his prepared talk on Martin Luther King Jr. focussed on the problems of non-violence as a principle rather than a mere tactic amongst Any Means Necessary.

He discussed the differences between Martin Luther King Jr. and the Black Panthers, the Black Muslims (under Malcolm X), Stokely Carmichael and the Black Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, explaining the points of divergence and contact between

each with anecdotes and mournful commentary.

The most poignant moment of Dellinger's address came in the story of the death of Black Panther Fred Hampton, who was assassinated in his bed by FBI and police agents in a raid in December of 1969 — while Dellinger was standing trial for his anti-war work with the Chicago Eight. Dellinger spent the next evening with some fellow defendants and several Black Panthers, sitting in grief on the floor.

"Well, Dave," said one Panther security agent, "do you see now why we, everybody, you must pick up the gun and bring the revolution?" Dellinger was too stricken by his friend's death and the confusion of the situation to reply.

Six months later, he found out the man who'd been encouraging him to violence was an FBI infiltrator, trying to incite incidents which would allow federal authorities to wipe out the resistance movement altogether through military force.

This only reaffirmed his conviction that non-violence is the only way to create an anti-government force which would not replicate the centralized, militarized mentality of the power it was fighting.

Several audience members referred to armed national liberation struggles in El Salvador or Southern Africa with which Dellinger expressed solidarity.

God knows I'm not going to condemn them. It's clear why they feel the need to pick up the gun,"

Dellinger explained. "But anybody who is stupid enough to think they are going to save human life and bring justice with military arms, I cannot support. It perpetuates divisions and lies."

"The Black Panthers' stance attracted people who thought *Now I can get my revenge*," he continued, "and though I know and love many of those people (who are now in jail for murdering cops or others), that was not a contribution to the Black struggle or the human race."

Dellinger expressed his admiration for the women's movement, for various murdered or disillusioned revolutionaries (Huey Newton and Abbie Hoffman, for example) and for the people of Eastern Europe, which he called the proof of "the failure of economic democracy without political democracy, whereas the United States is a failed experiment in political democracy without economic democracy," to appreciative applause.

But his essential message was that democracy begins at home, with the non-violent resistance of grassroots organizations. "The power elite in the U.S., and perhaps in this country, know they're sitting on a volcano," he said. "There's more alienation now than ever in my life, including the 60s and the Great Depression... I expect that volcano to explode in the 1990s. It may not be the revolution, but we'll make a lot of progress."

And active non-violence, not

pacifism, would lead the way, he said. "Non-violent action will become an alternative to armed struggle and war when the movement has people who are willing to take every risk a soldier takes without taking another's life. I don't think we can become self-righteous and expect that sacrifice of people who may be in a different season of life, not ready yet, but we must have that core of sacrifice."

Dellinger was introduced by Black Rose Books publisher and Montréal activist Dimitri Rossopoulos. "International solidarity is vital, but the principle challenge before us is that if our society, in institutions like this (McGill) and across the country, do not move and change fundamentally, we will never be able to help people in other countries," said Rossopoulos.

The forum was sponsored by the Alliance for Non-Violent Action (ANVA), the Québec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) and Ploughshares McGill.

ANVA moderated the evening, making a plea for involvement in their planned June "Freedom Rides" to the South African "Apartheid Embassy" in Ottawa, and for Montréal citizens to carry on Dellinger's tradition of non-violent resistance.

The Alliance for Non-Violent Action can be contacted in Montréal at 525-0765.

Employment equity sought at McGill

by Miriam Korn

Women eager to launch a career as a professor should not count on getting hired at McGill.

The data collected by McGill Employment Equity Committee were released last year but its release as a report has been delayed. It will take years before policies can be formulated and then imple-

mented.

Honora Shaugnessy, the project coordinator, expects it to be released as a report next September instead of the original April date. McGill started late on the report since it received government funds for the project in the third round of financing for universities to conduct the study.

As reported earlier in the *Daily*,

the Committee's investigation revealed that as of December 31, 1988, only 223 of the 1322 academic staff at McGill were women. Of the 469 full professors, only 31 were women.

The employment equity study is the first phase in a \$50,000 provincially commissioned investigation of women's employment conditions at McGill.

The investigation began as a pilot project at Laval University and UQAM. They have completed their reports and are now in the process of implementing the policies created. Sherbrooke and Concordia have also been commissioned to do the study.

In the meantime, Shaugnessy said workshops and a conference are scheduled for the coming months.

The second stage of the report will begin soon since work on a statistics analysis is almost complete. This will involve a set of 16 "perception workshops" in February, addressing 16 different categories of women. They will act as brainstorming sessions to help get a picture of "how women see themselves in the university," according to Shaugnessy.

She said university administrators have been co-operative. Principal Johnston and Vice-Principal Davenport meet regularly with her. "We are raising consciousness although more slowly than we want," said Shaugnessy.

Women do get hired by McGill, comprising 750 of 803 clerical workers. But clerical work is typically a female job ghetto.

Eight years ago, women faculty at McGill were given the opportunity to compare their salaries with their male counterparts in confidential meetings, according to McGill Principal David Johnston. However, only "modest adjustments" were made. "There was not a lot of controversy or debate. It was very well done," he said. Johnston added it may be useful to recommend a repeat of such a process.

The last phase seems to be the most problematic. For example, Dalhousie University in Halifax has had a policy of increasing the proportion of female faculty since 1983. However, between 1984 and 1989 only 29 per cent of faculty appointments were women.

continued on page 8

news brief

Engineers circulate gun control petition

by Jeremy Smyth

In response to massacre at Université de Montréal, the Congress of Canadian Engineers is circulating a nationwide petition calling for stricter gun control legislation.

The petition demands that Federal Justice Minister Doug Lewis withhold civilian licenses for automatic, semi-automatic and convertible weapons.

Over 100,000 signatures have been collected. The first round of petitions will be sent to Lewis at the end of January.

The Engineering Undergraduate Society of McGill has asked the Congress to set up a national

memorial fund for the fourteen women killed at l'École Polytechnique. Twenty thousand dollars will be used to establish a scholarship fund for female engineering students, and the rest will be used by the The Council of Canadian Professional Engineers National Fund to promote female engineering students.

Although the Ecole's Undergraduate Society set up a fund for the victim's families immediately after the massacre, the school will not establish a scholarship fund for female students in memory of the 14 women. Heidi Rathjem, of the Ecole's undergraduate society, said this is because of "a possible conflict of interests among students."



Executive Committee of the Bourgeoisie attacks unions

The Assault on Trade Union Freedoms
Leo Panitch and Donald Swartz
(Garamond Press, 1988)

A government's treatment of trade unions is a litmus test for democracy. The restriction of workers' rights is now an undeniable reality of Canada's social life — an essential element in the restriction of democracy that figures so prominently on the agenda of the current crop of politicians.

by Alex Roslin

In a 1987 ruling, the Supreme Court said the freedom of workers to organize in unions "is a freedom that has been suppressed in varying degrees from time to time by totalitarian regimes." But this statement was part of a ruling upholding a back-to-work law passed by the Alberta government in 1984.

This Supreme Court ruling was the "stamp of approval" for a new era of suppression of unions by governments, say the authors of *The Assault on Trade Union Freedoms*.

Authors Leo Panitch and Donald Swartz argue Canadian governments are waging a war on organized workers. Governments are slowly restricting collective bargaining and the right to strike — and it couldn't come at a worse time for workers.

Real wages are tumbling — about 16 per cent since 1972. Industry is fleeing North America in search of cheap labour, low taxes, and mild safety regulations. Many companies choose Mexico and the Pacific Rim, where workers are paid as little as 60 cents an hour.

Governments privatize social services and attack wages in the public sector. Unions in the public sector are opposed to this plan.

Panitch and Swartz say it's all part of an effort by capitalists to save capitalism from capitalist contradictions.

They show a free society cannot exist without economic democracy. This means people having power — and rights — in the workplace. They emphasize the ways in which the corporate and government attack on unions is an attack on the rights of working people.

The core of the attack, and of the book, is law. Governments are dismantling organized labour through direct action — like back-to-work orders, scab labour and riot police — but the main attack is through legal precedents.

According to Panitch and Swartz, union leaders must devote most of their efforts to knowing the law, including legal rights, procedures, and precedents, "rather than mobilization and struggle." And this may be

the problem of the book.

Bookish, poorly edited and legalistic, *The Assault* is not very quotable. Its various chapters make the point and yield fascinating information, but its *umph* is limited.

The book's legalism is ironic in light of its charge that unions are too legalistic. A typical passage: "Logan's reference to the way the legislation devalued militant organization is of crucial importance... Moreover, the incessant centrifugal pressures of a liberal consumerist society make (activism) a never-ending process."

Complaints against Canadian governments to the UN-affiliated International Labour Organization (ILO) soared in the mid-1970s. Four complaints between 1954 and 1973 increased to 19 between 1974 and 1985.

In 1985, the ILO took the unusual step of sending investigators to study labour complaints in Alberta, Newfoundland and Ontario. They ruled that legislation in the three provinces violated international labour law.

Still, *The Assault on Trade Union Freedoms* is successful in underlining the recurring theme in the anti-labour campaign — the warmth of the embrace between the state and capital. It would be astonishing, write Panitch and Swartz in a relatively unconvoluted passage, if a union "in an industrial dispute, asked for, much less received, the aid of the police, or the militia, or the federal troops to safeguard it in a claim to the right to work."

State coercion in defense of employers' interests, on the other hand, is becoming a matter of course. "The Mulroney government carried this assault to unprecedented levels," say Panitch and Swartz.

The post-war boom in the Fifties and Sixties was a time of relatively cordial relations between capital and labour. The authors

accuse the union movement of losing its radical agenda during the comfy times — it was happy to work within the liberal framework in a subordinate position to capital.

As prosperous times passed, so did the willingness of management to support the right of free association by workers.

"Freedom of association" is one of the four fundamental freedoms in the 1982 Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In 1972, Ottawa ruled "freedom of association" includes free collective bargaining for workers.

But by 1975, both federal and provincial governments were out swinging with a new attitude to Canadian unions. Governments began severely restricting bargaining power and strikes, and disrupting the internal affairs of unions. In 1975 and again in 1982, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau made it illegal for federal employees to strike, claiming this would control inflation by keeping down wage increases.

"The long range game plan appears to call for the gradual elimination of the strike option in federal dealings," write Panitch and Swartz.

Remarkable evidence of the new attitude to organized labour comes from the number of back-to-work laws passed by federal and provincial governments. During the 1950s, three back-to-work laws were passed in Canada — in the 1970s, there were 41, and from 1980 to 1987, there were 43.

In 1975, Trudeau explained the new atmosphere of business-labour relations to a

get the message," he warned.

Trudeau wasn't lying. When the Canadian Union of Postal Workers struck in 1978, Ottawa immediately passed back-to-work legislation and union president Jean Parrot was briefly jailed — not for encouraging his members to defy the back-to-work law, but for *remaining silent*, for not publicly urging them to obey the law.

Another tactic for restricting the activity of public sector unions was designating services "essential" making it illegal for workers in these services to strike. "Essential services" laws proliferated in federal and provincial legislatures — between 1982 and 1984, the number of federal employees designated "essential" doubled.

Private businesses and provincial governments were invited to follow Ottawa's lead. In Québec, the once-leftist Parti Québécois government was quick to extend Trudeau's policy.

When the PQ passed Bill 160, Québec's essential services law, one union leader called it "the most severe law Québec has had in the last twenty years."

Changes to Québec's labour code restricted the power of public sector unions to negotiate wages, and allowed some employers to set new wages arbitrarily with no negotiation and little chance to strike legally.

Bill 160 allows hospitals to use scab labour — an unthinkable provision in the 1970s — and permits patients to sue unions of health care employees for damages incurred during labour conflict.

The Bill designates from 55 per cent to 90 per cent of public servants, depending of the sector, as "essential," and thus extremely restricted in their bargaining power and right to strike.

But the most resounding blow came in 1982, when Premier René Lévesque slammed the public sector with the famous Bill 70, under which 300 000 provincial employees received pay cuts averaging 20 per cent. The right to strike was removed by Bill 105, which extended existing collective agreements for three years. Workers were not consulted about the changes to contracts they had themselves signed.

radio interviewer. "We'll put a few union leaders in jail for three years and others will



Cops in riot gear mass on Parliament Hill, August 1987

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Frosty, Sally ©1988, 1989, 1990
Michael Sportza

Hydro Québec fails to subvert strike

by Joyce Lombardi

Despite the Québec government's shrinking definition of a legal walk-out, 14 000 Hydro-Québec workers have been striking legally for 11 weeks in the midst of deadlocked bargaining with the province.

Yet workers accuse Hydro-Québec of using "essential services" laws to declare their strike illegal.

Hydro-Québec complained last Thursday to the province's Essential Services Council that workers were abnormally slow in repairing damaged lines in Hull, Montréal and Côte-St. Luc, and not providing "essential services."

According to Pierre Fromment, Secretary of the Treasury of Local 1500, labour rights for Québec's public sector have been severely jeopardized since the Parti Québécois wrote the Essential Service Bill into the provincial Labour Code in 1982.

"Before 1982, strikes were legal as long as the public was not in danger by lack of services. But now, strikes are legal only if workers provide not only emergency, but even regular services as well," said Fromment.

Employers try to inhibit strikes by expanding the definition of "essential services," he added.

"Technically, Hydro-Québec could complain if we don't have workers processing bill payments. That's a public service," he said.

But last Friday, workers got a break when the Council said the Hydro strike — launched November 6 — has stayed within the boundaries of a legal strike because workers are still providing emergency service to provincial residents.

The Council also approved the union's plan for an unprecedented rotating strike affecting one area of the province each day, with a province-wide strike every 15 days.

Union officials are glad they are "playing the strike game right," but are wary of the seemingly arbitrary power of the Council to define "essential services," said Fromment.

Provincial labour mediator Yvon St. Onge said the Council was implemented only to protect the public. He denied that employers use essential services laws as a bargaining weapon.

But he added that hospitals may have used the Essential Service Council to their advantage in the

Québec nurses' strike last summer.

Hydro union officials agreed union busters put more pressure on health workers than on Hydro-Québec. "The Council was much more strict with health workers," said Gilles Gigère, lawyer for le Syndicat Canadien de la Fonction Publique (FTQ).

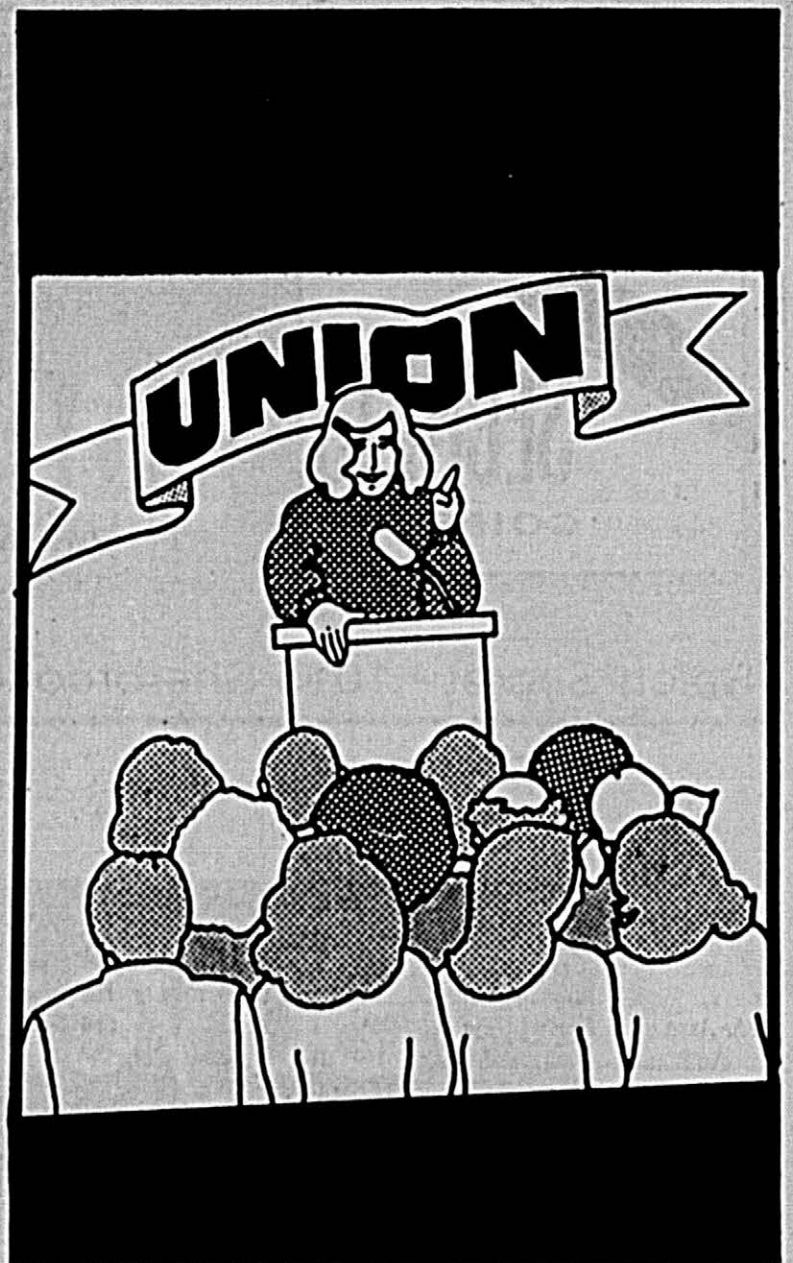
Some union officials are concerned the Québec government has not yet established a labour board, although Bill 30 — passed two years ago — calls for one.

"The Essential Services Council shouldn't be the supreme judge in labour disputes because its focus is too narrow," said Gigère, "What we need is a broader, more general Labour Board."

Fromment disagreed. "We don't want to invite a third party into labour disputes," he said.

He added that the Board would not change the definition of a legal strike, and "essential services" would still be used as ammunition by employers.

St. Onge said current Labour Minister Yves Séguin is delaying the implementation of Bill 30, partly because of resistance from unions and corporate representatives.



Québec privatizing health services

by Alex Roslin

Conflict between nurses and the Québec government last summer is part of an aggressive attack by Bourassa on the public sector, say leaders of the nurses' unions. They warn the government's plan is to privatize, privatize, and privatize some more.

Nurses say Bill 160, Québec's law punishing nurses for the August strike, is an attack on unions in the public sector. After the week-long walk-out by 40 000 nurses, Bill 160 figured in strikes by hospital support staff, Montréal Transit employees and Hydro workers.

"The government is using Bill

160 to privatize social services," says Sylvie Bissonet, president of United Nurses, a 9000-member affiliate of the Québec Nurses Federation.

"Bourassa wants a copy of the U.S. system," she says.

Nurses have few kind words for Marc-Yvan Côté, minister of health and social services. Last week, he admitted Québec is trying to privatize health care.

Côté is known for his controversial role in privatizing services in other government departments like transport, where he was a resource person for the Québec government on privatization programs.

In an address to delegates at a

nurses' convention last week, Diane Lavallée, president of the nurses' federation, called Bill 160 one of the most oppressive laws ever faced by organized labour.

Public sector unions are a stumbling block for the increasingly obvious plan of both federal and provincial governments to privatize services in health, education and transport.

Cuts in funding for universities, Via Rail and health care are evidence of the governments' social policy. Pay equity and health spending cuts were key issues in last fall's strike. Nurses said the cuts resulted in poor work conditions, massive cut-backs in staff and low wages.

Bill 160 was passed by the PQ in 1985 to maintain essential services during strikes, or so said the government.

Critics wonder about the bill's real objective. They say it aims to severely curtail the ability of workers to bargain effectively with employers.

Federal and provincial governments increasingly use laws like Bill 160 to whittle away power from unions. The number of federal employees designated as "essential," and thus severely restricted in striking, has doubled since 1982. By 1984, 76 per cent of federal servants were "essential."

Since the mid-1970s, govern-

ments at all levels have been waging war on organized labour through back-to-work laws, fines, restrictions on wage negotiations, "essential services" clauses, and even violence. In some sectors of the Québec public service, 90 per cent of workers are designated "essential."

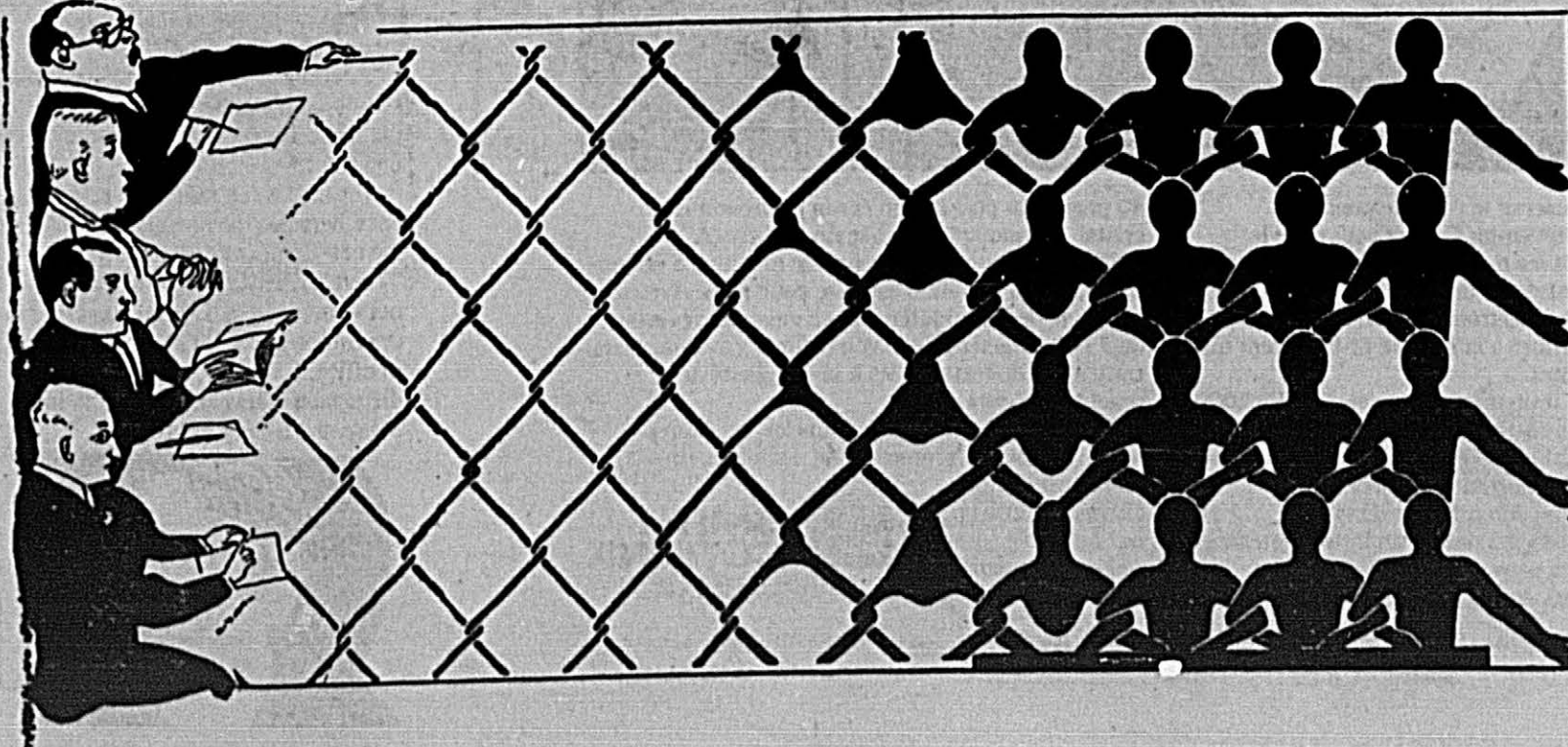
"The objective of Bill 160 was to restrain the taste of workers to strike as part of collective bargaining," says Bissonet.

Bill 160 prohibits all "concert actions" by public sector workers. Bissonet says "concert action" covers much of what a union does — strikes, mobilizing workers, organizing action as part of collective bargaining.

When nurses stopped working overtime last summer to protest overworked conditions, the government called it a "concert action" and threatened nurses with severe sanctions allowed by Bill 160 — cuts in seniority, salary loss, fines on the union, and suspension of the union's right to deduct dues at the source.

Historically these sanctions were wiped out or at least softened by Québec once an agreement was reached. But following the nurses' strike, the government applied the Bill to the letter. Nurses were hit with attacks on their rank formula and their union dues, and with heavy fines.

Lavallée says the government's harsh application of sanctions is more evidence it wants to break the Québec union movement.



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Bob Rae & the milk-snatcher

by Dave McCullough

Bob Rae, leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party, adopted an almost prof-like demeanor as he lectured McGill students on the values of social democracy Friday afternoon.

"There is some talk of the death of socialism. The challenge facing us is tremendous because it is now fashionable to think of politics and life as 'What is in it for me?'" said the opposition leader, who doubles as a budding minstrel/satirist when not politicking.

He urged students to reverse the acquiescence and aversion to social programs promoted during the Thatcher and Reagan regimes. "I

protested when Thatcher came to Oxford. At the time she was known as Thatcher the Milk Snatcher because as education minister, she took free milk away from elementary schools," he said.

Using Eastern Europe as an example, Rae spoke rhetorically on the power of the people.

"If enough people decide that something won't be so, then it won't be so. It is the triumph of people over technology, it is the triumph of democracy, it is the triumph over inevitability," he said.

He then recited off a laundry list of opinions for current social issues. He blasted the inaccessibility and decline of Canadian education.

"Canada has a thirty per cent high school dropout rate, increasing illiteracy, under-representation of women and minorities, not enough money in research and development. Companies don't contribute enough in taxes or in private contributions," he stated.

Shifting his attention to Meech Lake, he chastised this country for wanting provincial apartheid. "If this (attitude) remains," he said, "there is no longer going to be a country."

He praised the Accord for recognizing the special status of Québec while including it in the confederation.

On Native rights, Rae said, "The difference between Canada and South Africa is in South Africa there are less whites and more blacks, in Canada we have more whites and ethnic groups and less aboriginals."

He opposed Ontario's recent decision to ignore the Temagami people's land claims. "How would you feel if you woke up one morning and someone had arrived, formed a parliament and taken all your rights?" he asked.

Responding to a question on Free Trade, Rae said, "The failure of the last election is that the liberals and the NDP did not present an alternative to the Free Trade Agreement."

He threw in economics and environmental protection near the end of his talk. "We need an economy that makes justice just as well as soap, and protect the environment at the same time."

According to Rae, the Senate should be abolished. "It performs the same function as a burnt-out appendix."

Finally, when asked the difference between the liberal party and the new democrats, Rae answered, "There is a hell of a lot of difference between what a Liberal says in opposition and what a Liberal does in office. I, frankly, cannot tell the difference between a Liberal in office and a Tory in office."



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372 LOST AND FOUND

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Have you seen a black leather glove with small gold emblem? 1/16 in Alley or Leacock. \$10 Reward. 284-5234.

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Reward: One lost white furry hat with two furry pom-poms. Lost 16 January on Upper campus. Great Sentimental value. Don't let my ears freeze! Call 982-6567. Thanks.

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GERT's: 10:30 p.m. You're tired but your friends want to stay. Don't want to walk home alone? Use the WALK-SAFE NETWORK!! McLobby Mon - Thurs 10:45 p.m.

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Gays and Lesbians of McGill offers an information and counselling talkline. Call us with questions, problems, or just to talk. Phone 398-6822 or drop by Union 417, M-F, 7 - 10 p.m.

student painters

Positions still available throughout Ontario and Québec. What are you doing this summer? Call André at 843-7399.

McGill Journal for Political Studies is calling for submissions: Deadline is January 29th. Drop off papers at Leacock 443, PSSA box.

Lesbian/Gay studies group meets Thursdays, discussion group meets Fridays, both at Yellow Door (3625 Aylmer) 17h00. Info 597-0363 (Bill).

Animals are suffering confinement and death in the hands of us humans. Help work to improve their fate. META 276-0914.

Red Herring deadline for contributors and non-rabid marsupials to submit material is Jan. 31st. Visit Union 406, call 398-6816, or do a rain dance.

Latin American Awareness Group and Brigades de Paix Internationales present witnesses to war in El Salvador with Karen Ridd. Monday, January 22 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in French. At Leacock 232.

Mon: Celebrate the rites of spring (among other things) at the Arts & Science Red & White Graduation Ball, Friday March 23, 1990. Tickets

on sale at Sadies' Jan. 29 - March 16. \$38 per person. Table reservations on a first come first served basis.

Free Public Speaking Seminar - Learn to speak with confidence; Saturday, January 27, 10:30 - 1:30. Register now at the Students Society desk. Limited to 60 participants.

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...Pay equity at McGill

continued from page 3

"I think that, as a whole, the process has been weak," Barbara Harris, Dalhousie's new women's status co-ordinator said in a recent interview. (CUP)

The federal government reported that the 1986 Employment Equity Act has made little impact on practices in the Canadian workplace. Women working full-time in 1988 earned 71.26 cents for every dollar

that full-time male employees made, an increase of just one-half of one cent on every dollar earned in 1987.

"The improvement is so marginal as to be completely unacceptable," Judy Rebick of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women told the *Globe and Mail*.

"The changes are just too slow. I think you'd probably see these

kinds of improvements without the law," she added.

The law urges businesses to hire and promote more women, disabled people, visible minorities and aboriginal peoples. However, there are no penalties for companies that discriminate.

The report — an inventory of workforces of 372 companies — employing a total of 601 000 people, also cited scant increases in employment equity for native people and the disabled, with their representation in the workplace increasing from 1.59 to 1.71 per cent and from 0.73 per cent to 0.66 percent, respectively.

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